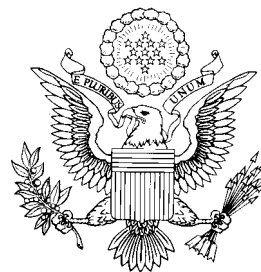


ARTICLE ALERT

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Information Resource Center (IRC)

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Consulate General Shanghai

Suite 532, 1376 Nanjing West Road

Shanghai, 200040

Tel: 86-21-6279-7662 x 4678

Fax: 021-6279-7603

Email: shanghaiirc@state.gov

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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. How Obama Really Did It: Social Technology Helped Bring Him to the Brink of the Presidency

Talbot, David

Technology Review, vol. 111, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 78-83

Talbot, chief correspondent for Technology Review, writes that Barack Obama "has forever changed electoral politics by making new media platforms and his own social networking site fulcrums of his campaign." Jascha Franklin-Hodge, cofounder of Blue State Digital, the high-tech company working for the Obama campaign, states that the key is tightly integrating online activity with tasks people can perform in the real world -- "the core of the software is having those links to taking action." Those actions are donating money, making calls, writing letters and organizing house parties. McCain has an online campaign, but has a lot of catching up to do, according to Talbot; it needs a text messaging strategy to reach voters under age 25. Joe Trippi, who ran John Dean's campaign in 2004, states that "there won't be a campaign in 2012 that doesn't try to build a social network around it."

2. Food Security: Achieving the Potential

Pinstrup-Andersen, Per; Herforth, Anna

Environment, vol. 50, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 48-60

The authors evaluate how far world governments have come in meeting global food security since the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) stated two decades ago that more than 730 million people were insufficiently nourished to lead productive lives despite an abundance of food. Presenting figures from the past and present, they discuss the critical role of food distribution. They predict food security problems will worsen unless governments prioritize protection food supplies in rural communities as well as urban centers, promote sustainable food production, and introduce policies that improve natural resources management and tackle trade distortions to ensure people can obtain the diverse, balanced diet required for good health.

3. The Short List: The Most Effective Actions U.S. Households Can Take to Curb Climate Change

Gardner, Gerald; Stern, Paul

Environment, vol. 50, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 12-24

Individual efforts represent a "huge reservoir of potential for reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change," according to the authors. About 38 percent of national carbon emissions come from U.S. households. More energy-efficient choices in household and motor vehicle technologies can make a more rapid and direct difference than policy revisions that take time and negotiation. The public needs better and more accurate advice on the most effective conservation measures individuals can take. Efficiency-improving actions save more energy than limiting use of inefficient equipment, studies find, and home upgrades can result in significant savings and reduction of carbon emissions. Government policies can assist by providing simple guides and incentives for "going green".

4. Millions Uprooted: Saving Refugees and the Displaced**Guterres, Antonio****Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 90-99**

At few times in history have so many people been on the move, says the author, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, blurring the traditional distinctions between refugees, internally displaced people, and international immigrants. Conflict and human rights violations are scattering millions of people who need access and resettlement assistance in other states. At the same time, authoritarian governments should not be allowed use “sovereignty” to shield themselves from international accountability if they abuse their citizens.

经济贸易 Economics and Trade**5. Is the ‘Good Life’s as America Knows it Over?****Fraser, Steve****TomDispatch.com, posted September 19, 2008**

Fraser, author of WALL STREET: AMERICA’S DREAM PALACE and a student of the history of relations between Washington and Wall Street, write that the undoing of Pres. Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal program and its regulatory regime, with the “socialization of risk”, beginning with the massive bailout of the savings and loan associations in the 1980s, is what has resulted in the present-day collapse of the U.S. financial system. He notes that, despite the free-market, anti-government rhetoric, the bailing out of the financial industry by Washington is acknowledgment of how dependent the U.S. economy has become on the financial sector. The recent decisions of allowing some firms to survive and others to fail is more a symptom of confusion of how to deal with a spiraling crisis. Fraser notes that the financial system is out of control, and that it is “time for a reversal of course -- reregulation of [the financial system] is not enough anymore ... the government must figure out how to shift the flow of investment capital out of the mine-fields of speculative paper transactions and back into productive channels that will help meet the material needs of American society.”

6. Boiler Room: The Business Press is Missing the Crooked Heart of the Credit Crisis**Starkman, Dean****Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2008, pp. 48-53**

The author, head of the business and finance desk at CJR, writes that while there have been many good articles about the subprime mortgage fiasco that has resulted in the widespread crisis in the credit markets, most have treated it as a “kind of natural disaster or nasty turn in the business cycle.” There is acknowledgement that abusive practices did occur, but Starkman writes that few have reported about how extensive they were. He says that the most comprehensive and insightful reporting on the system that produced the credit crisis was a story aired in May 2008 on (U.S.) National Public Radio, called “The Giant Pool of Money”. This narrative describes the global pool of savings, which had doubled to USD 70 trillion, was searching for higher returns, and the U.S. financial system, from the investment banks at the top, down to the mortgage brokers and salesmen across the country, was under tremendous

pressure to create financial “products” for this money to invest in. Traditional underwriting procedures were abandoned in favor of aggressively selling loans to marginal borrowers. Some former loan company agents reported that the movie *BOILER ROOM*, about unethical stockbrokers, was used as a “training tape”. Starkman notes that systemic corruption and fraud has been revealed at lenders across the board. “Yet to be explored fully”, he writes, “is the extent of Wall Street’s role, and the size of the transfer of wealth from millions of civilians” to the financial professional class.

7. A Mountain, Overlooked

Rickards, James

Washington Post, October 2, 2008, p. A23

The author, former general counsel for the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM), which collapsed in 1999, writes that the complex mathematical models that Wall Street firms used to calculate risk contained a “colossal conceptual error” — the assumption that risk is randomly distributed, and that an individual default event has no bearing on any other event. He notes that LTCM did not realize this a decade ago, and Wall Street does not appear to comprehend it today. Rickards argues that what was never considered was the overall stability of the system, which may appear random and chaotic, but “beyond chaos lies complexity that truly is unpredictable and cannot be modeled with even the most powerful computers.” Systems such as financial markets have complex interlocking relationships, not unlike a mountain covered with snow, in which one snowflake may not set off an avalanche by itself, but with the next one, and the next, it could. He notes that extreme events, such as are occurring now in the global financial markets, occur more often than most models predict, and because “we have scaled the system to unprecedented size, we can expect catastrophes of unprecedented size as well.”

8. Economics and the American Family: A Review of Recent Literature

Conger, Darius

Choice, vol. 46, no. 1, September 2008, pp. 33-34, 36-45

As Americans head into another presidential election in November, one of the most important issues facing the voter will be the economic situation of the average family. This essay focuses on the recent literature that addresses the economic decisions and outcomes of American families, a growth occupation for academic scholars and policymakers. The author breaks down his categories into history of the family; economic theory and the family; law and the family; families with children; work; child outcomes, or societal concern such as welfare reform for families at the bottom of the income distribution; and family reconfiguration, such as divorce, retirement and death. Such variety in employment studies and family research now requires a good background in demographics and population trends which was not the case even twenty years ago. One reason has been the impact of the working mother, as the beginning of the 21st century has seen increasingly vital positions in the corporate world held by women with children. The cost to employers of losing these key employees has started to impact employment policy thinking in ways that were previously not considered.

国际安全 International Security

9. Strategic Collaboration: How the United States Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise

Hachigian, Nina; Sutphen, Mona

Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 43-57

The authors note that calling for a new G-13 forum would be a bold and useful step that the next president could take. The new president will face a radically different world than the one that George W. Bush inherited -- beyond instability in the Middle East, several major new world powers have emerged. This strategic environment is unlike any the United States has ever encountered. The authors argue that, instead of regarding the emergence of China, India and Russia as a threat to American prominence, the next administration must harness the power of these new players, particularly through a new forum that can tackle the greatest threats to contemporary global security. They note that this new world is shaped by technology, rather than ideology, and allows money, goods, and people to cross borders. By the same token, infectious diseases can spread with similar ease, and technology has empowered rogue states and terrorist groups. In this new era, the authors note, the greatest threats to the peace and prosperity that the international community desires does not emanate from other strong powers but from these “technologically empowered forces of chaos -- the rotten fruit of globalization.”

10. International Exchanges and the U.S. Image

Snow, Nancy

Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, no. 616, March 2008, pp. 198-222

Snow, Senior research fellow at the University of Southern California, reviews four special issues of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science that were devoted to the issue of international exchange programs and the U.S. image. She concludes that methods of public diplomacy that were applicable in the past can still be applied today, including the importance of dialogue in overcoming stereotypes, building relationships, knowing the target culture, and enhancing the national reputation of America during ideological contests. The primacy of one individual in contact with another individual remains one of the most important opportunities to change attitudes and, thereby, improve the image of the United States.

11. Bush's Legacy

Frum, David

Foreign Policy, Sep/Oct 2008, Iss. 168; pg. 32, 5 pgs

There's no denying that the war in Iraq has defined the presidency of George W. Bush in important ways. But history is unlikely to remember the war as negatively as most assume. As time passes, other crucial decisions of the Bush years will come into sharper focus. Among the most important will be the formation of a US-India military alliance. Other foreign-policy legacies of the Bush years include the signing of new bilateral trade agreements, the world's first convention on cybercrime, the wise decision to give Venezuela Pres Hugo Chavez

enough rope to hang himself, and the continued successful management of the US-China relationship. In the two decades leading up to Bush's presidency, the US and its allies were struck by a rising number of increasingly ambitious, aggressive, and deadly terrorist attacks. Granted, the next president will feel the need to create an appearance of distance between himself and the unpopular Bush. But that's hardly new.

12. Making Intervention Work: Improving the UN's Ability to Act

Abramowitz, Morton; Pickering, Thomas

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 100-109

The United Nations must streamline its decision-making process, if the organization ever hopes to transform its ideals into actions, argue two former U.S. ambassadors. Grave crises in Burma and Sudan show that authoritarian leaders do not respond to international condemnation and that sanctions often have little impact on regime leaders. The authors point to UN reform reports underlining the importance of creating a UN "rapid reaction force," closer coordination with nongovernmental humanitarian organizations, and more robust UN diplomacy. But while institutional change is essential, so too will be the daunting challenges of convincing China and Russia -- as well as skeptical legislators -- in the United States and Europe to take action.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

13. China Moves Up to Fifth as Importer of Students

Hvistendahl, Mara

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 54, No. 4, September 19, 2008, pp. A1, 21-A22

After joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, China embarked on an ambitious plan to attract 120,000 international students by 2007 and went on to exceed its goal by 60 percent. While foreign students are a lucrative source of revenue for Chinese universities, China's bid for international students is driven by its diplomatic goal of developing soft power and cultivating a non-threatening image in the world, according to Hvistendahl. As part of the same diplomatic drive, China has been opening Confucius Institutes around the world to form partnerships with foreign universities to promote Chinese language and culture. China also seeks to internationalize its universities and realizes it can't have world-class universities without large numbers of international students, says an expert on Chinese education Hvistendahl interviewed, Gerard Postiglione. Most of China's international students come from other parts of Asia, but the United States ranks third as a source, behind South Korea, the top source, and Japan. The Chinese Scholarship Council awarded more than 10,000 full scholarships to international students in 2007 at a cost of \$52 million. A separate scholarship program targets students in the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. International students are drawn to study in China more by the country's growing economic and political power than by the quality of the universities, but those universities are improving. Korean students already say that the quality of the English instruction they receive in China is far superior to what they can get at home.

**14. World Grows Smaller, IB[International Baccalaureate] Gets Big
Cech, Scott
State Legislatures, Vol. 34, no. 2, February 2008, pp. 20-25**

President Bush has endorsed it; national magazines are writing about it; the number of schools offering at least one of its programs is growing dramatically: the International Baccalaureate (IB) program offers an alternative to the stripped-down, test-driven, math- and reading-oriented primary and secondary education offered nowadays in much of the U.S. IB got started in 1968 as a way for the children of European diplomats to keep up with their studies while living overseas. Administered by the Geneva, Switzerland-based International Baccalaureate Organization, IB requires genuine fluency in a foreign language, lab sciences, mathematics, and the humanities. Students must take a Theory of Knowledge class and write a 4,000-word research paper and participate in extracurricular arts, sports and community service. The Diploma Program requires seniors to engage in 3 to 5 weeks of oral and written assessments and to pass rigorous exams in all six content groups. IB is “uniquely great,” says the principal of a Fairfax, Virginia, high school that had to drop the program because of parent complaints it didn’t offer enough extracurricular flexibility. “It’s an extremely expensive program,” says Carolyn Callahan of the University of Virginia’s education school; “sadly, many communities are not willing to invest.” However, 30 percent of the 800 IB schools in the U.S. receive federal assistance. Universities eagerly seek IB graduates; Oregon State University, for example, offers automatic admission to IB graduates who score above 30 (out of a possible 45 points), a full year’s college credit, and a minimum of \$2,000 in scholarship money renewable annually provided the student maintains a B average.

**15. Face the Nation
Bordewich, Fergus.
Smithsonian. September 2008. vol. 39, no. 6, pp. 60-69**

In late August 1858, the U.S. senatorial candidates for Illinois, incumbent Stephen Douglas and challenger Abraham Lincoln, squared off in what became the most famous debates in U.S. history. The author notes that these debates transformed the national debate over slavery, turned Lincoln into a contender for the presidency and “set a standard for political discourse that has rarely been equaled.” The author writes that, while this was a state-level race, both Douglas and Lincoln realized that they were speaking to the nation - the introduction of shorthand, the telegraph and the railroad meant that their words were transmitted across the country. Douglas was the favored candidate, and few thought that the underdog Lincoln could best him; it took several debates before Lincoln figured out how to go on the offensive, notes one historian quoted for the article, but soon he was “like Rocky Balboa”. Excitement ran high in anticipation ! of the two larger-than-life political figures coming into town - tens of thousands of people flocked to hear them. While Lincoln lost the election, the debates transformed him into a national political figure. Douglas, in favor of slavery, was speaking primarily to the status quo, notes the author, while Lincoln spoke “to the future, to the better angels of our own nature.”

**16. A Liberal Shock Doctrine
Perlstein, Rick**

American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 9, September 2008, pp. 22-24, 26

The author, a senior fellow at the Campaign for America's Future, believes that progressive political change in American history is rarely incremental. History continues to teach us that presidents have to move quickly to enact progressive reforms before the opportunities escape them. With few exceptions, most of the reforms (such as Social Security, Medicare, desegregation) that have advanced our nation's status as a modern, liberalizing social democracy were pushed through in such circumstances. The post-Civil War reconstruction of the South, the Progressive Era remaking of democratic institutions, the New Deal, and the Great Society, were all blunt shocks that required immediate decision-making, a course of action that the White House's most effective occupants have always understood. Franklin D. Roosevelt "hurled down executive orders and legislative proposals like thunderbolts" during his First Hundred Days, hardly slowing down for another four years; Lyndon Johnson, aided by sympathy generated by John F. Kennedy's death and the landslide of 1964, generated legislation at such a breakneck pace that even his aides were awestruck.